

Member Newsletter

Legislative Update



Message from Governor Mitch Daniels:

We're glad Steve Russo has joined TRF as its new executive director.

Under Steve's leadership, TRF will find new and innovative ways to provide our hard-working teachers, past and present, with high-quality customer service and retirement security.

In addition to the property tax relief passed by the Indiana State Legislature, several pieces of legislation were passed that impact TRF members and retirees. If you have any questions about the information below, please contact TRF's Member Service Center at (317) 232-3860 or toll-free at (888) 286-3544.

Cost of Living Adjustment

The cost of living adjustment (COLA) is as follows: a 2% increase for those who retired prior to July 2, 2000 and a 1% increase for those who retired after July 1, 2000 and before July 2, 2006. Retirees will see this increase after December 31, 2008.

Reemployment

As of July 1, 2008, retiring teachers must have a 30 day separation between retirement and reemploying in a position covered by TRF or by the Indiana Public Employees' Retirement Fund (PERF). For example, if your retirement date is June 1, 2008 you are eligible to work in a TRF- or PERF-covered position on July 1. Because the law does not take effect until July 1, those whose retirement date is May 1, 2008 are eligible to work in a TRF- or PERF-covered position on July 1, 2008.

Changing Beneficiaries After Divorce

Effective immediately, retired TRF members may change beneficiaries as a result of a divorce in any state, but only if the divorce orders permit such a change.

Disability Payments

The minimum monthly disability payment is increased to \$180, effective immediately. Retroactive payments will be made back to January 1, 2008.

TRF & PERF Service

If you have service in both PERF and TRF, you may choose the fund from which you will retire. This law is effective July 1, 2008.

Guaranteed Fund Rate Set for Fiscal Year 2009

The Board of Trustees of the Teachers' Retirement Fund (TRF) have determined the rate for the Guaranteed Fund for Fiscal Year 2009, beginning July 1, 2008. The rate is set at 5.5%.

"With other comparable investment rates much lower, this Guaranteed Fund rate is a competitive option for Indiana's teachers who may seek out a steady, assured rate of return," noted Steve Russo, Executive Director of the Teachers' Retirement Fund. Current one-year CD rates are at 2.8%, two-year Treasury Notes are at 2%, and Money Market rates are at 3.5%

Members may choose to allocate a portion of their Annuity Savings Account in the Guaranteed Fund. Allocations may be designated in 10% increments. Changes made by June 1, 2008 will be effective July 1, 2008. Members may make changes to their Annuity Savings Account allocations by logging in to their TRF account at www.in.gov/trf.

Have you set up your online TRF account?

It's easy! Simply visit www.in.gov/trf and choose Online Services. You will need a valid email address to register. A PIN will be sent to that email address and you can then log in and change the PIN to something you will remember. Use your online account to update your contact information, designate beneficiaries, change your investment options, and view past quarterly statements.

Please note, if you and your spouse are both teachers, you must set up separate online TRF accounts. This means you must use a different email address for each account.

Indiana State Teachers' Retirement Fund

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